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REMARKS

Claim 7 is objected to for the reasons noted in the official action. The above requested cancellation of claim 7 overcomes the raised informality concerning that claim.

Next, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8 and 12-14 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Mashiko '750. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised obviousness rejection in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4 and 9-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with this indication, claim 1 is appropriately revised to include the subject matter of claim 9 as well as intervening subject matter of claim 7. In addition, claim 12 is rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of claims 1, 7 and 9. In view of such amendment and the Examiner's previously indicated allowability of such claims, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 12 are now believed to be in a condition for allowance. As claims 2, 4, 5 and 13 each depend directly from either one of those two independent claims, those dependent claims are believed to be allowable as well.

On page 3 of the official action mailed March 18, 2005, the Examiner states that claims 4 and 9-11 contain allowable subject matter while the page one of the official action indicates that Claim(s) 5 and 9-11 is/are objected to. The Applicant believes that both occurrences should read that claims 5 and 9-11 are objected to but recited allowable subject matter. That belief was confirmed with the Examiner, on April 17, 2005, during a telephone conversation.

In view of the above clarification concerning claim 5, new claim 15 is entered and this claims recites the subject matter of prior claim 1 along with the allowable subject matter of claim 5. According, it is respectfully submitted that this new independent claim is believed to be allowable as well.

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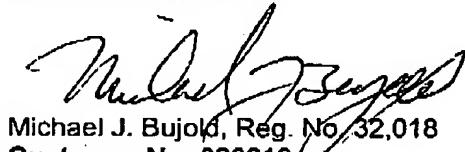
If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejections should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objections or requirements, as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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